

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-11, 14-19 and 21 were pending in this application. Claims 9 and 18 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 10, 11, 19 and 21 have been amended hereby. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the now-cancelled claims. No new matter has been presented. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in several dependent claims. As set forth above, the independent claims have been amended to recite some of that allowable subject matter. As such, favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4-8 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johansen (US 6,631,144) in view of Cotton et al. (US 5,870,441), and claims 9, 10, 18, 19 and 21 were objected to, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The pending ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, and in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, independent claims 1 and 11 of this application have been amended to recite the limitations recited in objected to claims 9 and 18, respectively. Other claims have been amended to correct their dependencies. As such, the independent claims now recite subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner, and the §103(a) rejection of the claims should accordingly be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION OF OCTOBER 21, 2008
APPLICATION NO. 10/603,699
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 0370.0175C (CPOL 243056)

Applicants hereby petition for a one month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees required for the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Dated: February 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted by:

EDELL, SHAPIRO & FINNAN, LLC
CUSTOMER NO. 05642
1901 Research Boulevard, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 424-3640

/Lawrence D. Eisen/
Lawrence D. Eisen
Reg. No. 41009